



UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

The **Epitome** */I'pitəmi/*

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

Unleash the epitome of creative writers

Volume 1, Issue 1

2023

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eISSN 3009 - 0075

Published by:

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SYNOPSIS

The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah branch is proud to present the first issue of its e-magazine, The Epitome, as our focus to highlight our commitment to contribute to the areas of creative writing.

THE EPITOME aims to provide a platform for writers, educators, academicians, poet, and researchers to share their ideas, findings, knowledge, and experience, particularly on various creative writing genres - personal essays, poetry, short stories, songs, movie scripts, plays, and innovative projects in four different languages (English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, and Arabic).

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear readers,

It is with great pleasure and immense pride that we, the Academy of Language Studies at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah branch, extend our warmest welcome to all writers and readers to honor all 127 artistic masterpieces. This is indeed a tremendous achievement to commemorate our debut.

We are privileged to offer the platform for the writers to show their talents in creative writing in this magazine, which serves as a testament to our commitment to the area of personal essays, poetry, short stories, songs, movie scripts, plays, and innovative projects. Their invaluable contributions and unwavering commitment to academic excellence have played a vital role in shaping this magazine.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Editorial Board




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DOING AND SAYING SOMETHING THAT YOU DID NOT MEAN TO.....

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How many times have you done or said something that you did not mean to? I am sure that we can all recall such times under various situations and contexts.

How many times have you turned on the signal indicator instead of the wiper? Sounds familiar? This could be an example of a genuine short term confusion of the location of these gadgets. This is usually followed by an almost immediate realization and a corrective action. Sometimes, this is caused by driving various vehicles which follow either the Japanese or Continental systems. Most Japanese vehicles come with signal indicators on the right, Continental, on the left. So, when one drives both models, confusion is bound to occur.

Another instance is when we forget to put on our safety belt and the annoying alarm comes on to remind us, in a high, painful pitch to the ear. Then we go "oops, gotta do this though I don't want to...". We then quickly plug in the safety belt. This is an impulsive response to the alarm. On the other hand, I know people who automatically plug in their safety belts as soon as they are seated in the vehicle, as an immediate response to being in that space. So there, we have all kinds of people with all kinds of responses in terms of action or words spoken.

What about the times when we consciously say something that we don't mean. How many times have you said that the bill was 'quite' steep when you actually meant 'very expensive'. This is about language nuances and how we coat the real intention as it makes for a toned down interpretation of expression in communication.

In a similar context, we've heard ourselves say things like 'the food was quite or pretty good', to mean very good with minor flaws. The effect could be similar to the earlier context or it could actually mean good on a scale that does not reach extremely good. So here, interpretation would depend on the context of the speaker. How many times have you said 'no thanks' to an

offer of cake when you really wanted it?. You had hoped for a little persuasion from the other party and if this did not come, you'd kick yourself for saying what you did not mean. If all went as planned, and a continued offer came by, you respond and say 'well, ok..ok...ok....but just a bit ok'. Here is yet another context of - this is not good or healthy for me or my diet but I want it anyway. It is a cheat mechanism that many of us possess which is built in our personality to satisfy our longings without making it obvious and/or reducing our guilt of doing so to the public eye and to ourselves. This 'cheat' mechanism is created to help us feel better about eating something that we know is going to blow our diet, but still makes it 'ok' for that moment. Regrets and guilt may follow later.

Alternatively, some of us genuinely decline an offer of cake, but on persuasion and in order not to offend our host, we respond with 'ok, just a bit then'. So, here, the context is to please our host at a minimal cost to our waist line! Then, there is the situation where you have an unfavorable response to something but you do not wish to state it that way. For example, when a suggestion to go out to a place is given and you are not in favour of it, you may say 'not really' or 'maybe' in a tone of voice that says: No, I don't think so or No, I don't like that place'.

Reasons attributed to this lack of honesty varies from a softening of a negative response to not wanting to displease the person making the suggestion. Hence, language has a wide spectrum of interpretation and various language phrases and vocabulary, together with voice tones and body language, to get the 'intended' message across subtly.

I hope you have enjoyed reading some of my language sharing points and perhaps could think of countless other situations whilst adding more varieties to these shared.

Thank you.



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eISSN 3009-0075

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